

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 08180 031249Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 INT-05 OES-07 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
OIC-02 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 /082 W

-----091299 031255Z /41

O 031213Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2340

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8180

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, GR, CY, TU, UN

SUB: UN CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

REF: STATE 211624

1. WE APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO PROBLEM IN RESPONDING TO THE GOG PER PARAGRAPH TWO OF REFTEL (AND WILL BE DOING SO), WE ARE BOTHERED BY THE INSTRUCTIONS IN PARAGRAPH THREE AND RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE RECONSIDERED.

2. THAT THIS IS A TECHNICAL CONFERENCE IS WELL KNOWN TO THOSE WHO DEAL WITH THESE QUESTIONS. BUT THIS IS NOT KNOWN OR UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. AN ACTIVE US EFFORT TO SCUTTLE THE RESOLUTION AND, IF THIS FAILS, A US VOTE AGAINST IT WILL BE SEEN BY THE GREEKS AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE US SIDING WITH THE TURKS. THE FACT THE CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE IN ATHENS ALSO MEANS THAT OUR STAND WILL RECEIVE INTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE AND NOTHING WE SAY ABOUT THE "TECHNICAL" NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE WILL COUNTERACT THE ATTACKS AGAINST US. MOREOVER, OUR STAND ON THIS ISSUE WILL REINFORCE THE ADVERSE REACTION WE CAN EXPECT HERE WITH RESPECT TO
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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE VAROSHA ISSUE.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS IN PARAGRAPH THREE OF REFTEL TO THE US DELEGATION BE AMENDED SO THAT THE US DELEGATION DOES NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN EFFORTS TO SIDETRACK THE RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE AND THAT IF THE RESOLUTION COMES BEFORE THE PLENARY THE US DELEGATION BE AUTHORIZED TO

ABSTAIN. MY MAIN CONCERN IS THAT, HOWEVER DESIRABLE IT MAY BE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN OPPOSING THE POLITICIZATION OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCES, TO DO SO ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME IN THIS CITY WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO HELP SETTLE THE PROBLEMS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. IN WEIGHING THE RELATIVE VALUE OF THE TWO CASES, IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT MAINTAINING OUR BONA FIDES WITH BOTH GREEKS AND TURKS IS CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPORTANT. IN ANY CASE, I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH RESOLUTION AMONG OTHER DELEGATIONS AND IT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY FOR US TO PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN OPPOSING IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, MEETINGS, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS08180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770320-0249
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770999/aaaadfu0.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 524bfb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 211624
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1392832
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
TAGS: PGOV, GR, CY, TU, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/524bfb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009